

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 198

By Shipley

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge spanning U.S. Highway 23 in Sullivan County in honor of the late Private First Class Joseph L. Meade, United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the armed forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Private First Class (Pfc.) Joseph L. Meade, United States Marine Corps, who made the ultimate sacrifice on January 25, 1969, while serving his country in Vietnam with M Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division; and

WHEREAS, Pfc. Meade followed the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned by serving with distinction in the United States Marine Corps and he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Meade enlisted in the Marine Corps in June of 1968 and, after completing basic training, he received additional training at Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton; and

WHEREAS, he arrived in Vietnam on December 5, 1968, and was stationed at Quang Ngai, South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Pfc. Meade distinguished himself with conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, National Defense Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Award, and Vietnamese Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Pfc. Meade's extraordinary heroism, indomitable courage, and aggressive leadership reflect great credit on himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service; and

WHEREAS, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Meade of Kingsport, Joseph Meade was a graduate of Dobyns-Bennett high School, where he excelled as a football player and a member of the Interact Club; and

WHEREAS, he expressed his faith as a member of Old Kingsport Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Pfc. Meade served with great courage, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed and, for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Pfc. Meade's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Pfc. Joseph L. Meade selflessly gave his life for his country, and it is most appropriate that a certain bridge in his native Sullivan County should be named to honor his memory in accordance with the wishes of his family and the Sullivan County Board of Commissioners; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that State Bridge No. 82-3900-1.25/82-137-1.30 which spans U.S. Highway 23 (State Route 137) on Granby Road in Sullivan County is hereby designated the "Pfc. Joseph L. Meade Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of the late Private First Class Joseph L. Meade, United States Marine Corps, one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in the first resolving

clause as the "Pfc. Joseph L. Meade Memorial Bridge." The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-1-133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.